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Kalika purana english pdf download

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The Kalika Purana is an ancient text considered as one of the eighteen Upapuranas in Hinduism. Composed around the 10th century, it primarily focuses on the worship of the goddess Kali and other forms like Girija, Devi, Bhadrakali, and Mahamaya. The text contains 98 chapters with over 9000 stanzas and offers a detailed description of the rivers and mountains at Kamarupa tirtha, mentioning the Kamakhya Temple. It glorifies the goddess Kamakhya, highlighting the ritual procedures for her worship. The Kalika Purana is infamous for its depiction of human sacrifice, a practice that was common in ancient times but now considered taboo. However, its main purpose seems to be bridging the gap between mainstream religious practices and tantric methods, which include using substances like meat, wine, fish, parched grain, and sexual intercourse in rituals. This text is significant as it has been cited by writers across India, particularly those who worship Shakti, the goddess of power. It's one of the few Hindu texts that mentions the word "Hindu." There is debate about its origins, with some suggesting an older version existed from Bengal and others pointing to its possible composition in Kamarupa (modern-day Assam). According to Shastri, local descriptions and mythological references within the text hint at its composition in Kamarupa. This is further supported by mentions of ancient poets like Kālidāsa and Magha (7th century), placing the upper limit of the text. The reference to Durjaya hills with Pragjyotisha in the Kalika Purana, following Ratna Pala's reign (10th century), sets a lower limit for the text. Internal explanations and external historical records suggest that the text dates back to late 9th to early 10th centuries. The text was first printed by the Venkateshvara Press in 1829 Saka Era (1907 CE) and later by the Vangavasi Press in 1316 Bangabda (1909 CE). This highlights the importance of restoring access to numerous books, including those related to Kalika Purana. The text itself is a significant Hindu religious text focusing on the worship of Goddess Kalika and tantric methods. It shares stories that differ from traditional accounts, making it one of the 18 Upapuranas. Emphasizing Shakti sect beliefs, the Purana delves into the glory, origin, form, pastimes, and worship methods of Goddess Kalika, including her association with Kamakhya Devi Temple. Its significance is noted in both the eastern parts of India and within Hindu religious texts, particularly among the Devi Puranas. The text also explores tantric sadhana, sacrifices, and the forms, powers, and greatness of several deities, distinguishing itself from other Puranas through its discussion of special tantric methods and worship practices. The Kalika Puran's character portrayal revolves around Shiva's family, with the first half focusing on penance and the second half on worship and sacrifice. While some scholars argue that the second half is an interpolated section, others consider the entire text to be a characterization of Shiva and his family.